

Dear Representative Hicks,

I am writing to support the bill HF 981 and communicate the importance of adult changing stations throughout public restrooms in the state of Minnesota.

I am a parent, primary caregiver, and legal guardian to an adult disabled individual. My daughter lives with me 100% of her time. She is 29 years old, incontinent and uses a wheelchair to access the community. There have been countless times over the past 2 decades that we have been out for various family, social and medical activities, and I have been forced to utilize the back seat of her handicap vehicle to change her. This involves transferring her from her chair in the middle row of the vehicle to the back seat, have her lay down, remove her soiled pants, get her cleaned up and get her dressed again, then transfer her back into her chair. Please pause and take a moment to imagine this scenario... she is currently 29 years old, physically about 125 lbs. and 5 feet tall.

I am fortunate that I have the physical ability do this for her (for now) so she can do the things she enjoys with her family and friends and attend her required medical appts. However, I have several caregivers for her that are not as physically able to do what I do, and this limits my daughters access to the community. In this day and age, where everyone is included, this is unacceptable.

Adult changing stations in all public bathrooms throughout all of Minnesota would be a game changer for our family, and I am sure many others. Please support bill HR 981 to change the state building code to require adult changing stations in all public restrooms.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Engle